



## **Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8**

**Meeting Date:** September 28, 2007

**Meeting Location:** Vigo County DCS  
30 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47803

**Council Members Present:** David Uberto, Regional Manager, Region 8; Mike Baker, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM; Pamela Connelly, Vigo County Director; Katie Edington, Vermillion/Parke County Director; Nikki Fuhrmeister, CASA, Vigo County

**Council Members Absent:** Hon. Paulette Stagg, Vigo County; James/Linda Scarbrough, Vigo County Foster Parent; Hon. P. J. Pierson, Sullivan; Hon. Bruce Stengel, Vermillion; Hon. Sam Swaim, Parke; Hon. Joseph Trout, Clay

**Others in Attendance:** Peggy Weber, ISU Dept. of Social Work; Suzy Cole, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Jody Horstman, Hamilton Center; Penny Pitcock, Dodson, Shively & Assoc. IV-B Coordinator; Shaye Isaacs, Wernle

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 9:00 A.M.

Dave Uberto welcomed attendees and led the introductions. Minutes were read from the August meeting. Two corrections were needed to the August minutes. Penny Pitcock, Dodson, Shively & Assoc. asked for a removal on the accreditation section to Item #7; this is not going to happen now. The spelling of Denise's last name is Halliburton. Corrections noted and then approved as read.

### **1. County Director Update**

Dave will be doing the initial interview for the Clay/Sullivan Director on October 5, 2007.

## 2. Practice Reform Rollout

All of Region 8 has now been trained in Teaming and Engaging. The feedback was very positive from the Family Case Managers. Diana Thomson reported that it is the direction we all need to go with keeping family units intact. Outlined steps needed to be taken to redirect families and this is a really good tool to have. The next component is Tools for Investigation. It will go in two phases just like the Teaming and Engaging. These changes are a work in progress. Dave will keep everyone posted as updates happen.

## 3. Allocation of CSW Funds

Each region received CWS funds and was based on the sizes of the different counties. Each county was given a different allotment. We are to view as regional money and apply the funds towards the region. Instead of dividing the money into each county, we need to name a county as the fiscal agent. We received \$18, 444 for Region 8. Clay County will maintain this money. The agent had to be one unlikely to operate in a fiscal debt. Clay County is in good shape, and it was decided to name them as the county agent. The money not used is rolled over and then subtracted on what will be given next year. It was asked if there are stipulations as to how the funds are used; the answer was yes. The money will be eligible to start using on January 2008. Pam presented an idea on how to use the money by having training called Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Training. Region 8 would like to have a training to be attended by those that would respond to a fatality. The county where the fatality happens will still do the paperwork. Many coroners do not have medical degrees, so they can be part of the team. The training would be on how to investigate a scene. The Family Case Managers would learn how to talk to the family concerning their loss while at the scene. There has been discussions state wide now on if we should go out on every child fatality. The cost is approximately \$6,000 and can train up to 50 people. We would be the second region to do this type of training. Southeast Region is the first to do it. They did 1-1/2 days of training and suggest 2 days. The team comes from all over the state consisting of Dr. Laskey, Allison Chaney, and a coroner from the State. The trainers are basically donating their time. The money is primarily for the reenactment dolls and materials for the training. We need to know how our youth are dying in order to do prevention.

Mike Goodwin did a death investigation and did a great job, and the family was very thankful. Mike received a spot bonus for this work. A question was asked: Can the additional funds be used in the same way as the funding currently is being receiving now? Dave understands it can be used the same way.

#### 4. IV-B Coordinator Update

Penny Pitcock reported Dodson, Shively & Assoc. are just finishing up on all the transfers. She has been in contact with all the counties on current dollars. They want to make sure there is not any money left in any contract. Dodson, Shively & Assoc. will do a 660 showing they moved money from one contract into another one. They meet monthly with Central Office staff, and the next date for the RFP process will be starting January 15, 2008. The information concerning contracts will be issued on the DCS site and then there will be a conference a few weeks later. Once the RFP is issued, you can't ask questions to providers. Providers will have until the end of February 2008 to get their proposals in. The next contracts will be for two years and will go from January 2009-December 31, 2010.

#### 5. Region 8 Conference Update

Registration forms for A Community Wide Forum for the Protection of Our Children featuring Dr. Antoinette Laskey were given to everyone. The seating is filling up quickly. We are looking for funding from legislators to have (talk to Pam about this). There is no cost to attend the Laskey Training. Sullivan County donated money to cover the cost for Dr. Laskey to speak. Pam thanked those on the committee for all their work.

Vigo County asked for a \$7,500,000 million budget. Pam met with the Vigo County Council and they agreed not to bring the State down. Mark Bird, Ivan Morris and Kathy Miller approved for \$6,300,000. Katie said her budgets are going well in Vermillion and Parke.

#### 6. Additional Business

Dave attended the CSW Site Team at ISU. The auditors wanted to meet with different people and agencies that are involved in the program. Peggy and Robin's efforts were praised for the program. The relationship between ISU and the State is really going to benefit the State. Dave stated there is great quality education in our back door. The question was asked: How is the program going at USI? They started their second program this fall. They accepted people that did not have degrees in Social Work. The Social Work students do not have to take the preliminary courses other students do. ISU wasn't willing to commit the money for the program for the MSW program. Before the next

RSC meeting, ISU is having a Suicide Conference on October 17, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Jody Horstman reported Hamilton Center is decimated by filling Vigo County Family Case Manager positions. The State wants to cut Medicaid spending. Some of the difficulties have been in terms of denials for Hamilton Center. When a person comes in for a session, staff has to print out form of Medicaid providers and sometimes might not get paid. IPA states there is tons of reports and paperwork getting lost. There have been two school service approvals since school started. If the child receives more than one service, you have to put in each request per service. There are further concerns due to Age, Blind and Disabled Medicaid. November 1, 2007 is the rollout these clients will go to this Medicaid service.

Penny Pitcock said referrals can now go up to a year if it currently goes back 6 months. We still need to review every 6 months.

Katie Edington reported Diana Newnam is the new supervisor starting October 1, 2007. The State has given Vermillion four (4) Family Case Manager positions.

We learned earlier this week ACS will be located at 43L Meadows Mall in Terre Haute. The search is still on for the DCS site and the other local offices.

Katie made a trip to Vermillion County and met with Judge Stengel. One thing he spoke of was the lack of participation of judges attending the RSC meetings. Dave would like to figure out a way for the judges to attend this meeting to find out what they are looking for to support the courts. Dave would like to arrange something after the first of the year to have the judges attend. Katie said the RSC used to do an annual meeting to invite judges for a lunch/dinner for them. Agencies in each county would get together and discuss issues; it was more like an annual retreat.

The management team is going to have their first clinical training given by Nikki Henderson and Becky Kirkham. As part of the rollout practice reform they want to be sure the supervisor and management team has strong clinical skills. The staff will be meeting with this group periodically.

Pam wanted to commend those that attend the meetings on a regular meeting.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 26, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. in the second floor conference room. Region 8 will not meet in November or December. The group agreed after the October meeting, we will meet again on January 25, 2008. Dave also mentioned instead of monthly meetings we move to bi-weekly meetings after January 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

